

REMARKS

Applicants, their principal representatives in Germany, and the undersigned have carefully reviewed the non-final Office Action of December 17, 2008 in the subject U.S. patent application, together with the prior art cited and relied on in the rejections of the claims. In response, the claims of the application have again been amended in a further effort to even more clearly patentably define the subject invention over the prior art cited and relied on, taken either singly or in combination. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

In the Amendment which was filed on August 13, 2008 in the subject application, the undersigned described in some detail the operation of the subject invention and pointed out that the prior art cited and relied on did not anticipate, or render obvious, the claimed invention. The time spent by the Examiner in his review of the undersigned's comments and in his withdrawal of the first rejection in favor of the second, non-final Office Action of December 17, 2008 is appreciated. It is requested that the Examiner take the time to again review the Remarks portion of the August 13, 2008 Amendment. That discussion is still believed to be relevant but will not again be set forth at this time.

The subject invention is depicted in Fig. 3 of the drawings that were filed with the application and is described in detail in the Substitute Specification from paragraph 0045 to paragraph 0065. During a review of that portion of the Substitute Specification, in the course of the preparation of the subject Amendment, it was noted that various minor errors existed in the Substitute Specification, in addition to those corrected by the changes to the Substitute Specification made in the August 13, 2008 Amendment. Those additional changes are numerous in number but do not present any new matter.

Their entry is respectfully requested.

As is described in the Substitute Specification, as is depicted primarily in Fig. 3 of the application, and as is recited in currently amended claims 23 and 30, the subject invention is directed to a printing group of a printing press. The invention recites the provision of an inking unit and a dampening unit, each with which various ink and dampening fluid paths which can be used to provide the ink and/or dampening fluid to the forme cylinder. A first ink distribution cylinder 316 is always in contact with a first inking roller 315. That first ink distribution cylinder 316 is also always in contact with a first inking roller 317. It is also selectively in contact with a second inking roller 318.

The first inking roller 317 is movable, as depicted in solid line and in dashed lines in Fig. 3, between two alternative positions. In the normal position, which is shown in solid line, the first ink distribution cylinder 316 engages the first inking roller 317 which, in turn engages both the second inking roller 318 and the second ink distribution cylinder 324. The ink from the first inking roller 317 is thus split and is delivered to the forme cylinder along a first, front ink path and along a second, rear ink path.

The first, front ink path includes the first inking roller 317, the second ink distribution cylinder 324 and one of the ink application rollers, roller 325. The second, rear path includes the first inking roller 317, the second ink distribution roller 324, the second, third and fourth inking rollers 318, 319 and 320, the third ink distribution cylinder 321 and the two ink application rollers 322 and 323.

In its normal position, as seen in solid line in Fig. 3, the first ink distribution cylinder 316 does not contact the second movable inking roller 318. That second inking roller 318 also does not contact the first inking roller 317 when they are both in their

normal positions.

The first inking roller 317 can be moved to the position shown in dashed lines in Fig. 3. In that position, it is no longer in contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 324. If the second movable inking roller 318 is in its solid line position, there is no supply of ink from the ink fountain 311 to the forme cylinder. In this position, the ink that has previously been supplied, possibly in combination with dampening fluid from the dampening cylinder 306 essentially recirculates.

The second inking roller 318 can be moved to the position shown in dashed lines in Fig. 3. In this position, and if the first inking roller 317 is also in its dashed line position, the ink path is from the first distribution cylinder 316; through the second inking roller; the third and fourth inking rollers 319, 320; the third ink distribution cylinder 321 and the ink application rollers 322 and 323 to the forme cylinder. This is essentially the second, rear ink path.

In the dampening system 306, there are positioned a dampening fluid distribution roller 329 and a dampening fluid application roller 328. The dampening fluid application roller 328 is always in contact with the forme cylinder 304 and with the dampening fluid distribution roller 329. It is also selectively in contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 324, as is shown in the solid line position in Fig. 3.

In the second, non-final Office Action of December 17, 2008, claims 23-29, 35, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,871,590 to Hummel. Claims 30-34, 36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hummel in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,290,360 to Fischer. The Office Action included a marked-up copy of Fig. 4 to Hummel, as

annotated by the Examiner in support of his rejections. That sheet of drawing of the Hummel reference, without its annotations added by the Examiner, will be submitted with this Second Amendment. It will be referred to in the following discussion which, is believed, will clearly demonstrate that the claims of the subject application, as they are currently pending, are patentable over the Hummel reference, taken by itself and/or in combination with the secondary reference to Fischer.

As discussed by telephone with Examiner Chen on Friday, March 13, 2009, there is submitted herewith, as a PDF attachment, a copy of Fig. 3 of the subject application and a copy of Fig. 4 of the Hummel reference. These have been annotated, using different colors, to attempt to make a comparison of the two devices easier to understand. The two drawing figures are believed to make the differences between the subject invention and the prior Hummel device quite apparent. It is to be noted that Fig. 4 of Hummel has been annotated to include the reference numbers associated with the corresponding elements of the subject invention.

The first distribution cylinder 316 of the present invention, (shown in green), is adapted to receive ink from the inking roller 315 in the subject invention. In Hummel, the first distribution cylinder 9 (green) receives ink from the ink supply roller 15. In the subject device, the first ink distribution cylinder 316 (green) is selectively engageable with one 317 and also with a second 318 movable rollers (red). It is to be noted that in the present invention, the first movable inking roller 317 is always in contact with the first ink distribution cylinder 316. It may or may not be in contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 324 (yellow). Hummel shows a generally similar arrangement.

In the subject invention, the second movable inking roller 318 is selectively in

contact with the first ink distribution cylinder 318 or with the second ink distribution cylinder 324. In substantial contact, in the Hummel device, the second movable inking roller 10 (318) is always in contact with the first ink distribution cylinder 9 (316). It may or may not be contact with a third ink distribution cylinder 7 (321). It is never in contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 11 (317). In both of the subject invention and in the Hummel device, both the second and third ink distribution cylinder 324 (6) and 321 (7) are in contact with separate ones of the plurality of ink application rollers 322, 323 and 325 (5).

The dampening system 6 of the subject invention and the corresponding dampening system 3 of the Hummel reference are not the same. In the subject invention, there is provided a dampening fluid distribution roller 329. That roller 329 is always in contact with a movable dampening fluid application roller 328. That movable dampening fluid application roller is movable between a first position shown in solid lines, where it is in contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 324, and a second position, shown in dashed lines, where it is out of contact with the second ink distribution cylinder 324.

In the Hummel reference, there is shown a dampening system at 3. It does not show or suggest that any of its rollers or cylinders are movable. The Hummel dampening system cylinder that is believed to be the most comparable to cylinder 328 of the subject invention, is not movable. It does not contact either the second or third ink distribution cylinders 6 or 7. Instead, it contacts one of the ink application rollers 5.

In the Office Action of December 17, 2008, the Hummel cylinder 8 was identified as a third ink distribution cylinder. In fact, it is referenced as a fourth ink distributor, as

set forth at column 5, line 33 of Hummel. In Hummel, the forme cylinder is indicated as having a counterclockwise rotation. The first, front ink path will thus include the movable roller 11, then the second distribution cylinder 6 and then the first and second ink application rollers 5 (1) and 5 (2), using the Examiner's numbering scheme. The second, rear ink path, assuming that the inking rollers 9 and 10 of Hummel are in the position shown in Fig. 4, includes the second movable inking roller 10, the third ink distribution cylinder 7, the ink application roller 5 (3) and also includes the fourth ink distribution cylinder 8 and the ink application roller 5 (4). It may also include the movable inking roller 11, the second ink distribution cylinder 6 and the first and second ink application rollers 5 (1) and 5 (2).

Claim 23 of the subject application, as it is currently amended, makes it quite clear that the first ink path is from the first ink distribution cylinder 316 to the first movable inking roller 317 and then to the second ink distribution cylinder 324. From there, the ink goes to the forme cylinder through the ink application roller 325. The second, rear ink path is from the first ink distribution cylinder 316 to the forme cylinder. The second ink path includes at least the second movable inking roller 318, which would be roller 10 in Hummel. It also includes the third ink distribution cylinder, which is cylinder 7 of Hummel.

In claim 23 of the subject application, as currently amended, the first one of the movable inking rollers 317 is always in contact with the first ink distribution cylinder 316. The second inking roller 318 is movable between selective contact with the one of the first (316) and second (324) ink distribution cylinders. In Hummel, the second movable inking roller 10 (318) is movable into contact with the third ink distribution cylinder 7

(321) and one of contact with that cylinder. Claim 23 further recites that the second ink path is selectively supplied with ink by one of direct contact of the one movable inking roller 317 (11), with the first ink distributing cylinder 316 (9) and with the second movable inking roller 318 (10); or by direct contact of the second inking roller 318 (10) with the first ink distribution cylinder 316 (9). Clearly, in the Hummel device, the second movable inking roller 10 (318) is never in contact with the second distribution cylinder 6 (324). It is thus clear that claim 23, as currently amended, is not anticipated by the Hummel reference.

Claim 25 has been cancelled. That cancellation renders moot the Examiner's rejection of that claim.

Claim 30 was rejected as being unpatentable over Hummel in view of Fischer. It was asserted that Hummel does not show axially movable dampening third application roller but that Fischer does show such a structure.

It is to be noted initially that claim 30 has been amended in a manner similarly to claim 23 to make it clear that the movable inking rollers of the subject invention are not the same, in structure, location or function, to the movable rollers 11 and 10 of Hummel. Claim 30, as amended, is thus believed to be allowable for that reason. In addition, the dampening fluid application roller in claim 30, as amended, is movable between a position where it contacts both the forme cylinder 304 and also the second ink distributing cylinder 324, and a position where it contacts only the forme cylinder. In the Hummel reference, there is no teaching or suggestion of a similar operational capacity for the dampening fluid application roller 328. Even if the secondary Fischer reference teaches or suggests an axially shiftable dampening fluid distribution cylinder, it does not

show a dampening fluid application roller that is movable as recited in currently amended claim 30. It is thus believed that claim 30, as currently amended, is also patentable.

All of the rest of the claims now pending in the application depend from one or the other of currently amended independent claims 23 and 30. It is thus believed that they are also allowable.


SUMMARY

Various paragraphs of the Substitute Specification have been amended, several for a second time, to provide uniformity of terminology and to correct several minor typographical errors. Independent claims 23 and 30, as well as various ones of the dependent claims, have been amended. It is believed that the claims now pending in the subject application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on, taken either singly or in combination. Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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